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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.2.2026)

The Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) share the concerns about the Russian shadow fleet.

The Council, based on proposals from the HR/VP and the Commission, has adopted several restrictive measures to further constrain the shadow fleet and its enablers. From July 2024 to December 2025, the EU has imposed a port access ban and a ban on the provision of a broad range of services related to maritime transport on 597 vessels¹.

The EU has imposed full-fledged sanctions on several actors supporting the Russian shadow fleet², including supportive or false flag registries that allow the continued operation of shadow fleet tankers. The EU is now fully engaged in discussions with like-minded partners, including the G7 - Nordic-Baltic 8 ++ Shadow Fleet Task Force³, to further facilitate preparation of additional measures. The EU also continues conducting outreach to flag states to ensure that ship registers do not allow shadow fleet tankers to sail under their flag.

Member States are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of EU sanctions. The Commission stands ready to support national competent authorities.

The HR/VP appointed a coordinator on shadow fleet within the European External Action Service.

The verification of marine insurance remains with the Member States but has been addressed within the International Maritime Organisation, whose Member States have agreed guidelines for accepting insurance companies and certificates, financial security providers, protection and indemnity clubs.

At EU level, such acceptance should in the future be shared within the Union Maritime Information and Exchange System⁴, in relation to the recent amendment to the Vessel Traffic Monitoring Directive⁵.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/12/18/russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-council-sanctions-41-vessels-of-the-russian-shadow-fleet/>.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/02/24/16th-package-of-sanctions-on-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-eu-lists-additional-48-individuals-and-35-entities/>.

³ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/joint-statement-shadow-fleet-task-force_en.

⁴ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/transport-modes/maritime/eu-wide-digital-maritime-system-and-services/union-maritime-information-and-exchange-system-safeseanet_en.

⁵ https://transport.ec.europa.eu/news-events/news/new-proposal-strengthen-eu-mandatory-ship-reporting-systems-2025-02-19_en.